

BUNCOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2004



HOW BUNCOM GOT ITS POST OFFICE

It Wouldn't Be So Simple Today!

It was the spring of 1896 and the residents of the Buncom area were actively talking about establishing a post office in their community. They had a petition, and they needed to file the formal paperwork. Jacob Parks, who would become Buncom's first postmaster, signed the application as sent to him on May 20 by the Office of the Fourth Assistant Postmaster General in Washington, D.C.

In it, he was asked "very respectfully": "Before the Postmaster General decides upon the application for the establishment of a post office at Buncom (sic), County of Jackson, State of Oregon, it will be necessary for you to carefully answer the subjoined questions, get a neighboring postmaster to certify to the correctness of the answers, and return the location paper to the Department, addressed to me."

There were several admonitions printed on the application form:

-- "Select a short name for the proposed office, which, when written, will not resemble the name of any other post office in the State."

-- "Be careful to answer the inquiries fully and accurately, or the case will not be acted upon."

-- "Applications for post offices should be accompanied by petitions of the citizens interested."

So, on June 8, 1896, soon-to-be Postmaster Parks submitted the following filled-in application form:

(See Post Office, Page 3)



For the 6th year in a row, Society members gathered at the Craterian Ginger Rogers Theater in Medford December 6th for the annual Christmas performance of the Trail Band. More pictures inside.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

BUNCOM DAY: SATURDAY, MAY 29

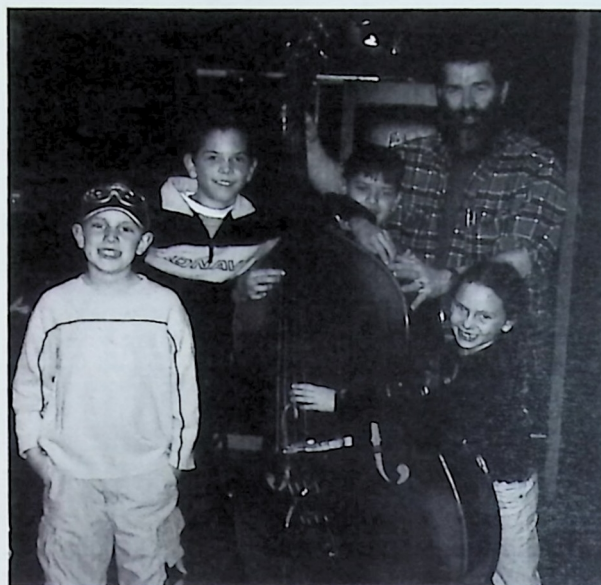
WORK PARTY: SATURDAY, MAY 22

BUNCOM'S CHRISTMAS WITH THE TRAIL BAND

For six years now, the annual Christmas visit of the Trail Band to Medford's Craterian Ginger Rogers Theater has been a special event for our Society. Each year we have reserved a block of tickets and many of us have attended the show together. This year was no different. Some 30 members gathered on the evening of December 6th for an informal reception before the show, then enjoyed the band's delightful performance.

Over the years we've gotten to know the band's members, and as you can see from the pictures, they're a friendly bunch.

We expect next year to be our seventh annual "Buncom Night at the Craterian" when the Trail Band comes to town. We'll let you know well in advance -- our tickets sell out fast.



Buncom's next generation of Trail Band'ers check things out before the show with the Trail Band's Mick Doherty.



The Trail Band's Mick Doherty and Cal Scott trade trips on performing with Connie Fowler.



Louise Doran, Evelyn and Tom Hennion, Dave Doran and Jo Anne Phillips chat at the Society reception before the performance.

POST OFFICE (from Page 1)

*The proposed office to be called Buncom.
It will be situated in the S.E. quarter of
Section 13, Township 39 South, Range 3 West,
in the County of Jackson, State of Oregon.*

*It will be on or near route No. (left blank),
being the route from Jacksonville to Watkins, on
which the mail is now carried twice per week.*

Will it be directly on this route? No.

If not, how far from it? Three (3) miles.

*If not on any route, is a "Special Office"
wanted? Yes. To be supplied from: Jackson-
ville.*

*The name of the nearest office to the pro-
posed one, on one side is Jacksonville; its dis-
tance is (12) Twelve miles in a North direction
from the proposed office.*

*The name of the nearest office, on the
other side, is Watkins; its distance is (20) twenty
miles in a South direction from the proposed of-
fice.*

*The name of the other nearest office to
the proposed one is Applegate; its distance by
the most direct road is twelve miles in a North-
west direction from the proposed office.*

*The name of the most prominent river near
it is Applegate.*

*The name of the nearest creek is Sterling
and Little Applegate.*

*The proposed office will be Three miles
from said river, on the East side of it, and will be
1/2 miles from said nearest creek, on the North
side of it.*

*If on the line of or near a railroad, on
which side will the office be located; how far from
the track; and what is, or will be, the name of the
station? (unanswered)*

*Give the population to be supplied by the
proposed office. One hundred and Seventy five.*

*If it be a village, state the number of in-
habitants. Country station.*

*A diagram, or sketch from a map, show-
ing the position of the proposed new office, with
neighboring river or creek, roads and other post
offices, towns, or villages near it, will be useful,
and is therefore desired.*

A correct map of the locality might be

"GEO-CACHING" COMES TO BUNCOM



It's known as "geo-caching" -- us-
ing a Global Positioning System (GPS) re-
ceiver to go on a treasure hunt. The geo-
graphic coordinates are the clue, and play-
ers have to find the "treasure" at that lo-
cation. Buncom has been the location for
at least two hunts. The latest included as
a treasure the rascal Elmo pictured above.
The idea is that you take one of the trin-
ket treasures and leave something else.

Two geo-cachers nicknamed

(See Geo-chaching, Page 7)

*furnished by the county surveyor, but this must
be without expense to the Post Office Department.*

*All which I certify to be correct and true,
according to the best of my knowledge and be-
lief, this Eighth day of June, 1896.*

*(Sign full name.) Jacob Parks, Proposed
P.M.*

*I certify that I have examined the forego-
ing statement, and that it is correct and true, to
the best of my knowledge and belief.*

*(This must be signed by Postmaster at
nearest office.)*

Jas. A. Wilson

Postmaster at Jacksonville

*The Buncom Post Office officially opened
on Dec. 5, 1896. It closed on Dec. 15, 1917.*

*Jacob Parks lived on the property now
owned by J.B. and Carolyn Roberts northwest
of Buncom. Parks' nephew was Babe Fields,
lifelong Applegate resident who passed away
recently, and his grand-niece is Lucille
Williamson, of Ashland.*

"KNEE DEEP IN COW STUFF"

Seeing Connie Fowler all dressed up like she is in the picture on Page 2, you'd never think that the headline above applies to her. But read on -- here's an article she wrote some years back.

By CONNIE FOWLER

A while back Ben bought three Holstein heifers due to calve. Curiously I asked, "Why", as dairy cows didn't exactly fit our beefy program. "I thought WE'D make nurse cows out of them and make more money," he happily stated. ("We who" would have been my next question, if I had not already known the answer.)

So, the trio of black and white beauties, dubbed Dollie, Linda, and Emmy Lou, waddled around eating grass until their appointed time. Emmy Lou calved first. So off to the dairy to get another calf in hopes she would adopt the new little critter as her own. Though she had plenty of milk for two, getting her to accept the aggressive little sucker proved a little difficult. But after a couple of weeks letting her calf, Reba, and the adoptee named Claude nurse twice a day, Emmy gave in and the little family went merrily out in the field.

Well, that didn't seem too bad. After a short reprieve, Linda and Dollie dropped their calves 12 hours apart. That complicated things a bit. A quick trip to the dairy for four more calves and the "fun" began. The process involves taking the cow's own calf away and then turning them both in with the cow, who is stantioned or tied, two times a day until the cow accepts the new-comer.

Nothing makes you feel more wanted than when you walk into the calf pen and six little sucking machines come after you, tongues wagging. The whole thing gets complicated when you have to let the right calves out to nurse the right cow. Then, you have to gage their time on the cow, because they are pretty

hungry by then, and can over-eat causing a condition called scours, a severe diarrhea which can be fatal if not treated.

Now scours may not be a subject for a nice little newspaper like this one, but remember this is the Ruch-Applegate area and believe me it became headline news at the F-2 ranch this summer. Seems there are about as many cures for the scours as there are people who have or have had calves. Everything from burnt flour, raw eggs, gelatin, Pepto Bismol, you name it and these calves have had it.

Anyway, six in the morning and six at night, WE could be found tying up cows, looking under tails, or milking. Our social life either happened around "doing the cows", or was non-existent. One day every one would be well and we'd be grinning. The next morning I'd be in tears because one of the babies would be sick.

Finally, at one point, we decided to sell the lot and possibly return to some semblance of normal. But we persevered and at last Linda, her own calf, Garth, plus an adoptee called Dude went to pasture. Not too long after, Dollie, who had the most milk, went out too with her calf, Crystal along with Blaze and Patches. Dollie doesn't like her two orphans, but she seems resolved to the inevitable.

So, the question remains, will WE want to repeat this whole process in 9 months when they calve again? WE aren't sure at this point. It's kinda nice to have the kitchen free of giant baby bottles and sacks of dry milk. I rather like not changing my clothes two or three times a day, and we can now say, "Sure, we can be there by six." But you know, I really like seeing those cows and all their kids contentedly grazing, and watching the calves playing in the evening, or running up to have their heads scratched. Oh well, after all WE do have 9 months to decide.

Want to Participate in Buncom Day?

It will soon be time again for Buncom Day. The date is set for Saturday, May 29, our 11th annual event.

If you would like to participate as a vendor (or in any other capacity), give Connie Fowler or Lyn Hennion a call. Their numbers are listed on Page 7.

We are particularly looking for additional craft vendors and children's activities.

BUNCOM EYES ...



Look closely -- that's the Buncom Post Office! This prize-winning digital art composition, called "One Green, One Blue" was done by Kathy Dean of Williams (formerly a Little Applegater). It's one of many wonderful photographs that can be found on her new website:

www.kathyllynndean.com/Index.htm

(Copyrighted photo used courtesy of Kathy Dean)

THANKS TO THESE NEW OR RENEWING MEMBERS

G.C. Wales, Yreka, CA
Halbert Bailey, Hayden, ID
Larry & Donna Anderson, Jacksonville, OR
Denni & Doug Bateman, Jacksonville, OR
Jill Brenkman, Jacksonville, OR
Fitzhugh & Ann Brewer, Medford, OR
Jeannine Cantrall, Jacksonville, OR
Don Coffman, Medford, OR
Carroll & Lucille Cummins, Grants Pass,
OR
Barbara & Paul Dallas, Jacksonville, OR
Duane & Linda Daniels, Medford, OR
Edmund Dews, Ashland, OR
Louise & Dave Doran, Medford, OR
Donna & Matthew Epstein, Jacksonville, OR
Mrs. Lewis "Babe" Fields, Williams, OR
Ben & Connie Fowler, Jacksonville, OR
Pat Gordon, Jacksonville, OR
Vernice Hall, Jacksonville, OR
John & Ethel Hassen, Medford, OR
Laurie Wise & Doug Hennion, Eugene, OR
Reeve & Lyn Hennion, Jacksonville, OR
Tom & Evelyn Hennion, Medford, OR
Petra & Bob Irwin, Jacksonville, OR
Jim & Ellen Knapp, Medford, OR
Dick & Rose Marie Leever, Jacksonville, OR
Bill & Susie Mackey, Gold Hill, OR
Lind McBeth, Jacksonville, OR
Rita McDonagh, Jacksonville, OR
Jerry & Nancy McGrew, Jacksonville, OR
Frank & Barbara Mikesell, Medford, OR
Tam & Ann Moore, Medford, OR
Jackie & Harlan Musch, Jacksonville, OR
Floyd & Genny Naugle, Harbor, OR
Don Greene & Niki Newkirk, Ashland, OR
Joe Ormonde, Jacksonville, OR
Ken & Jo Anne Phillips, Jacksonville, OR
Sue & Peter Rasmussen, Medford, OR
Drummond & Deb Rennie, Jacksonville, OR
J.B. & Carolyn Roberts, Jacksonville, OR
Don & Dotty Ross, Jacksonville, OR
Tom & Chris Russell, Jacksonville, OR
Don & Sandy Shaffer, Jacksonville, OR
Dennis & Norma Smith, Jacksonville, OR
Otto & Ginny Spechtenhauser, Jacksonville,
OR

Bill & Angela Thorndike, Medford, OR
John & Cathy Watt, Medford, OR
Iris Wells, Medford, OR
John & Evelyn Wigen, Jacksonville, OR
Clarence & Evelyn Williams, Jacksonville,
OR
Gladys Williams, Medford, OR
Asher & Avara Yaron, Jacksonville, OR
Jeff & Betsy Hennion, Pittsburgh, PA
Judy Hall, Vancouver, WA
Buzz & Marlene Robinson, Tacoma, WA
G. Greeley Wells, Jr., Jacksonville

A SPECIAL THANKS ...

Along with their dues, several of our members sent additional donations. We would like to offer our additional thanks for their generous support:

CDS Publications
Nick Moon
Mrs. Babe Fields
Jackie & Harlan Musch
Jeannine Cantrall
Sandy & Don Shaffer
Lind McBeth
Clarence & Evelyn Williams
Bill & Susie Mackey
Jill Brenkman
Joe Ormonde
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John & Cathy Watt
Matt & Donna Epstein
Drummond & Deborah Rennie
Louise & Dave Doran
Tom & Evelyn Hennion
Dick & Rose Marie Leever
Dennis & Norma Smith

It's Membership Renewal Time

BUNCOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP DUES

Here are my/our membership dues for 2004. Enclosed is \$5.00 for an individual or family. Here is my/our name as we would like it to appear on the mailing list:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, St, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Comments: _____

Mail to: Buncom Hist. Society, 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530

GEO-CACHING (from Page 3)

"BoxerLovers" found the cache at Buncom and left the following note on the Internet:

"When we got to this one, there was a nice man repairing the door to what used to be the post office. Mr. BoxerLover was able to get the cache undetected but putting it back was proving to be a bit tough with the man standing right there and we were not doing a very good job of being 'cool.' He probably thought we were criminals or something. SOOOO, we decided to tell him what we were doing ... it was great ... turns out the property belongs to him and we have permission to have the cache there."

(Your president and newsletter editor modestly admits to being the one described as a "nice man.")

For more about geo-caching, check out www.geocaching.com. You might even find the hunt that leads to Buncom.

DIRECTORS

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Carolyn Roberts, Treasurer

Ben Fowler 899-7805
Connie Fowler

The Buncom Historical Society is a non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving the buildings and history of the ghost town of Buncom, Oregon. Society address: 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

On the Internet:
www.buncom.org

To join the Society, send \$5.00 with your name and address to the Society at 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

Eagle Point Hist. Society
P.O. Box 201
Eagle Point, OR 97524

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